



se2009.eu

PC.DEL/747/09
24 September 2009

ENGLISH only

Swedish Presidency of the European Union

**OSCE Permanent Council No. 775
Vienna 24 September 2009**

EU statement on the OSCE/ODIHR Expert Group Report on the Elections to the European Parliament 4 – 7 June 2009

The EU welcomes the OSCE/ODIHR Expert Group Report of 22 September on the Elections to the European Parliament, which were held earlier this year from 4 -7 June. The expert group, headed by Mr Vadim Zhdanovich, was deployed by the ODIHR to 15 EU Member States.

As pointed out by the ODIHR, the elections to the European Parliament were the largest ever single electoral event in the OSCE area. In this context, we welcome the innovative approach of ODIHR as described in the report.

The EU notes that the report stresses that a high level of public confidence in the electoral process and national electoral management bodies was evident in the countries visited.

Postal address
Obere Donaustrasse 49-51
1020 Vienna, Austria

Visitor's address
Obere Donaustrasse 49-51
1020 Vienna, Austria

Telephone
+43 (0) 1 217 53 0

Fax
+43 (0) 1 217 53 380

E-mail: osse-del.wien@foreign.ministry.se
euoffice@osce.org

The EU greatly values the ODIHR's expertise and assessment of these elections. The democratic process is a living process where improvements, in new as well as in old democracies, can be made.

In this regard, the EU Member States will carefully study the ODIHR report and its recommendations.